



## TORNADO

### Description

*Tornados* are extremely violent localized windstorms. A tornado is characterized by a funnel cloud that reaches to the ground with wind velocities inside the funnel as high as 200 miles per hour. Tornados are formed by violent thunderstorms and hurricanes. They appear as a vertical funnel cloud reaching to the ground, and creating an incredibly loud roar. Tornados almost always travel from the southwest to the northeast.

### Related Hazards

Tornados are usually part of a severe thunderstorm

and may be accompanied by lightning, high winds, floods, and flash floods from extremely heavy rainfall.

### Geographic Considerations

Tornados can occur in every State, but are more frequent in the Midwest, Southeast, and Southwest. The states of Mississippi, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and South Dakota are at greatest risk.